

"Columbia Underground"

Member National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, and Central District

Upcoming Events

February 11 – CGC Monthly meeting 1pm Trinity Presbyterian Church, Program "Central America Flower Show" by Karen Blackmore, FS Judge & FGCM State President

February 7- Valentines at the Bluffs @ 2 pm. More details below.

March 14- Bud Vases at the Bluffs @ 2 pm. More details below.*

April 14-FGCM 86th State Convention in Maryland Heights, MO.

May 17-19 Flower Show School- Course 1 at the Boone County Extension Center

May 28 to June 4 FGCM "Bloomin Bus Tour" to New York and the Hudson Valley- Always Fun- contact Carolyn Oates for further info

Columbia Garden Club February 11 Meeting

The February 11 CGC meeting starts at 1 pm. Flower Show Judge & FGCM State President plus CGC member, will show pictures and discuss the challenges of judging a flower show when few people spoke English.

Rita will have the 2019 CGC Yearbooks available at the February meeting or you may pick them up at McAdam's now.

Yearbook additions:

*Dee Bauer 12230 N. Dripping Springs Rd. 65202, 573-239-4615 or deebauer54@yahoo.com

*Barb Beckett 816 Bucks Run 65201, 573-268-6059 or kenyonmook@aol.com

*Cindy Deegan 2409 N. Leisurely Way 65202, 573-356-6496 or cdeegs@hotmail.com

*Virginia Itschner 838 Greenwood Ct. 65203, 573- 514-0032 or vji25@mchsi.com



"Pig Squeak" (Bergenia)

Pig squeak got its name because if you rub a leaf between your thumb and forefinger just right, you will make a sound like a pig squealing. Must be a freshly cut leaf

Valentines at the Bluffs February 7

Bring scissors, any extra stickers, construction paper, doilies, markers, or whatever you have to make valentines with the patients at the Bluff. Activities start at 2pm. so come a little early to set up to assist the patients with this fun event. Contact Barb Rothenberger for further info.

86th FGCM State Convention April 14-17

"Get Your Bloom On" at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, in Maryland Heights, Mo. This will be a great time for CGC to "strut our stuff" showing off having been a Federated garden club for 85 years but also showing that we have been a garden club for a total of 100 years. We will receive special recognition at the Tuesday luncheon. So get your registrations sent in. Hotel rooms fill fast so make that reservation as soon as possible.

Making Bud Vase Arrangements at the Bluffs

On March 14 at 2pm plan to help patients make spring arrangements in bud vases. If you have any bud vases please bring them to this event or to the March 11 meeting, Barb Rothenberger will collect them then.

Flower Show School

Want to know more about exhibiting for a flower show? Maybe you want to learn about color theory, design elements, or design principles, these are the same for all art forms, not just floral design. Perhaps you want to study plants more in depth and learn how to show them. Well if this sounds interesting to you, join us for Flower Show School-Course 1 on May 17 & 18, 2019 here in Columbia. Contact Marie Pasley or Barb Schuette for more information.

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February Gardening Calendar

Ornamentals

- **Weeks 1-4:** Winter aconite (*Eranthis* sp.) and snowdrops (*Galanthus* sp.) are hardy bulbs for shady gardens that frequently push up through snow to bloom now.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Water evergreens if the soil is dry and unfrozen.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Inspect summer bulbs in storage to be sure none are drying out. Discard any that show signs of rot.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Enjoy the fragrant blooms of the Ozark Witch Hazel flowering in shrub borders or wooded areas on warm sunny days.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Take geranium cuttings now. Keep the foliage dry to avoid leaf and stem diseases.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Sow seeds of larkspur, sweet peas, Shirley poppies and snapdragons where they are to grow outdoors now. To bloom best, these plants must sprout and begin growth well before warm weather arrives.
- **Weeks 2-3:** Seeds of slow-growing annuals like ageratum, verbena, petunias,

geraniums, coleus, impatiens and salvia may be started indoors now.

- **Week 4:** Dormant sprays can be applied to ornamental trees and shrubs now. Do this on a mild day while temperatures are above freezing.
- **Week 4:** Start tuberous begonias indoors now. "Non-stop" varieties perform well in this climate.

Vegetables

- **Weeks 1-4:** Season extending devices such as cold frames, hot beds, cloches and floating row covers will allow for an early start to the growing season.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Start onion seeds indoors now.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Run a germination test on seeds stored from previous years to see if they will still sprout.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Don't work garden soils if they are wet. Squeeze a handful of soil. It should form a ball that will crumble easily. If it is sticky, allow the soil to dry further before tilling or spading.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Sow celery and celeriac seeds indoors now.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Sow seeds of broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and cabbage indoors now for transplanting into the garden later this spring.
- **Weeks 3-4:** If soil conditions allow, take a chance sowing peas, lettuce, spinach and radish. If the weather obliges, you will be rewarded with extra early harvests.

Fruits

- **Weeks 1-4:** Inspect fruit trees for tent caterpillar egg masses. Eggs appear as dark brown or gray collars that encircle small twigs. Destroy by pruning or scratching off with your thumbnail.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Collect scion wood now for grafting of fruit trees later in spring. Wrap bundled scions with plastic and store them in the refrigerator.

- **Weeks 3-4:** Grapes and bramble fruits may be pruned now.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Begin pruning fruit trees. Start with apples and pears first. Peaches and nectarines should be pruned just before they bloom.
- **Weeks 3-4:** When pruning diseased branches, sterilize tools with a one part bleach, nine parts water solution in between cuts. Dry your tools at day's end and rub them lightly with oil to prevent rusting.
- **Week 4:** Established fruit trees can be fertilized once frost leaves the ground. Use about one-half pound of 12-12-12 per tree, per year of age, up to a maximum of 10 pounds fertilizer per tree. Broadcast fertilizers over the root zone staying at least one foot from the tree trunk.

Miscellaneous

- **Weeks 1-4:** To avoid injury to lawns, keep foot traffic to a minimum when soils are wet or frozen.
- **Weeks 1-4:** When sowing seeds indoors, be sure to use sterile soil mediums to prevent diseases. As soon as seeds sprout, provide ample light to encourage stocky growth.
- **Weeks 1-4:** Repot any root-bound house plants now before vigorous growth occurs. Choose a new container that is only 1 or 2 inches larger in diameter than the old pot.
- **Weeks 1-4:** To extend the vase life of cut flowers you should: 1. - Recut stems underwater with a sharp knife. 2. - Remove any stem foliage that would be underwater. 3. - Use a commercial flower preservative. 4. - Display flowers in a cool spot, away from direct sunlight.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Now is a good time to learn to identify trees by their winter twigs and buds.
- **Weeks 1-2:** Branches of pussy willow, quince, crabapple, forsythia, pear and flowering cherry may be forced indoors. Place cut stems in a vase of water and change the water every 4 days.

- **Weeks 2-4:** Watch for squirrels feeding on the tender, swollen buds of Elms, Hickories, Oaks and other trees as spring approaches.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Maple sugaring time is here! Freezing nights and mild days make the sap flow.
- **Weeks 2-4:** Begin to fertilize house plants as they show signs of new growth. Plants that are still resting should receive no fertilizers yet.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Now is a good time to apply appropriate sprays for the control of lawn weeds such as chickweed and dandelion.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Tall and leggy house plants such as dracaena, dieffenbachia and rubber plants may be air layered now.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Save grape vine prunings for making into attractive wreaths and other craft objects.
- **Week 4:** Late winter storms often bury birds' natural food supplies and a well stocked feeding station will provide a life-giving haven for our feathered friends.
- **Week 4:** Encourage birds to nest in your yard by providing water and by putting up bird houses. Planting suitable shrubs, trees, vines and evergreens will provide wild food sources and nesting habitat.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Gardening Calendar supplied by the staff of the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening located at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri. (www.GardeningHelp.org)

No secretary minutes because of no January meeting.